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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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22850	7590	12/23/2003		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER STOCKTON, LAURA LYNNE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1626	

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-8 and 10-14 are pending in the application.

Rejections made in the previous Office Action which do not appear below have been overcome by Applicants amendment to the claims. Therefore, arguments pertaining to these rejections will not be addressed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C.

112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention.

In In re Wands, 8 USPQ2d 1400 (1988), factors to be considered in determining whether a disclosure meets the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, have been described. They are:

1. the nature of the invention,
2. the state of the prior art,
3. the predictability or lack thereof in the art,
4. the amount of direction or guidance present,
5. the presence or absence of working examples,
6. the breadth of the claims,
7. the quantity of experimentation needed, and
8. the level of the skill in the art.

In the instant case, Applicants are claiming a method of preventing and/or treating a diseases (e.g., diabetes, diabetic complications, etc.) treatable with a pharmaceutical compound having hypoglycemic activity. See pages 88-89 of the instant specification.

The nature of the pharmaceutical arts is that it involves screening *in vitro* and *in vivo* to determine which compounds exhibit the desired pharmacological activities. There is no absolute predictability even in view of the seemingly high level of skill in the art. The existence of these obstacles establishes that the contemporary knowledge in the art would prevent one of ordinary skill in the art from accepting any therapeutic regimen on its face. Applicants have not demonstrated that all of the diseases/disorders embraced by instant claim 10 could be prevented or treated. Therefore, based on the unpredictable nature of the invention, the state of the prior art would prevent one skilled in the art from accepting any therapeutic regimen on its face.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments filed September 29, 2003 have been fully considered. Applicants argue that the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph does not apply to instant claim 10, as amended, which recites a single identifiable aspect of a disease. In response, the language used in

claim 10, "preventing and/or treating a disease in a patient treatable with a pharmaceutical compound having hypoglycemic activity" embraces all of the diseases and disorders found on page 88, lines 33-40 and page 89, lines 1-31, and not just a single identifiable aspect of a disease as argued by Applicants. Therefore, the rejection is maintained.

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C.

112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 2, 3, 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 2 does not further limit claim 1 {see definition (10) under variable R⁶}. Compounds 30 and 31 in claim 5 are not embraced by

claim 1 (see the R^1 definition and the possible substituents). In claim 10, the “and/or” should be changed to “or”.

Response to Arguments

Applicants' arguments filed September 29, 2003 have been fully considered. In regard to the rejections of claims 2 and 5 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, Applicants relies on the definition of “aryl”, which is defined on page 6, lines 34-38 of the instant specification. Applicants argue that the definition of “aryl” embraces an unsubstituted aryl or an alkyl-substituted aryl. Applicants then argue that a group, such as “(phenoxyethyl)benzyl”, is embraced by claim 1 by $-A-R^1$ when A is methylene and R^1 is an aryl substituted with “aryloxy”.

In response, Applicants' arguments have been considered but have not been found persuasive. The definitions of “alkyl” (page 4, lines 9-27), “aryl” (page 6, lines 34-38) and “alkyl-substituted aryl” (page 6, lines 39-40 and page 7, lines 1-6) have been carefully reviewed. An example given for an “alkyl-substituted aryl” is a group such as *p*-tolyl

(e.g., a phenyl ring substituted with an methyl group at the *para*-position of the phenyl ring). It could not be found in any of the definitions that the “alkyl” group is optionally substituted or that the “aryl” group (represented by R¹) can optionally be substituted with an “aryloxyalkyl” group. Therefore, the rejection is deemed proper and is maintained.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1, 4, 6-8 and 11-14 are allowed over the art of record.

Conclusion

Applicants’ amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

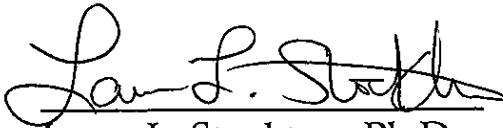
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end

of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Laura L. Stockton whose telephone number is (703) 308-1875. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:00 am to 2:30 pm. If the examiner is out of the Office, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph McKane, can be reached on (703) 308-4537.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.


Laura L. Stockton, Ph.D.
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Art Unit 1626, Group 1620
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December 18, 2003